

Paperweight Library - source of books

Dr. J. C. 29

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# Curios and Relics

## Desk Supplies

### Paperweight Owned by Lincoln

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

which was first introduced by the Spaniards.

There was great rivalry between the highland and the coastal peoples and the entire area was dominated first by one and then by the other. In the archaic stages of the two cultures, evidence is best studied in the potteries. The textiles reveal these civilizations in maturity and decline. These mature stages represented in the Boston Museum collection are generally alluded to as Early Nazca (A.D. 100 to 600); Tiahuanaco II (A.D. 600 to 900); Late Chimu (A.D. 900 to 1400); and Hapsburg or Spanish Colonial (after 1550.) The chronology is based upon that of Mr. Philip Ainsworth Means whose illustrated catalogue of the Boston Museum Collection is now available.

#### Traditional Motifs

The human figure, the puma or cat, the bird, centipede, and the fish constitute the basis of all designs. The early Nazca examples are distinguished by realism and by fantastic concepts of these basic forms. Conventionalization was carried to such a point in the later Tiahuanaco II textiles that it is possible to recognize the motifs only with great difficulty. Such decadence of design reveals an accompanying degeneration of political life which made the conquest of the highland people by the Late Chimu or coastal folk an easy matter. In contrast, the Late Chimu designs are geometric and well ordered with the constant recurrence of interlocking motifs. In general the highland textiles are severe in color and highly conventionalized while those produced along the coast are strong and rich in coloring with the ornament more or less naturalistic. The play of influence was uninterrupted throughout the history of Peru, extending until the final conquest of the Late Chimu people by the highland Incas who in turn fell before the Spaniards.

The Early Nazca embroideries (A.D. 100 to 600) are represented in the current Boston Exhibition by many notable examples. In these are revealed in the elementary form the distinguishing features that persist throughout the history of Peruvian textiles. The recurrence of motifs in mathematical order points to a conscious scheme of repetition which might well repay investigation. There is also a curious and consistent use of a motif alternating

with itself in reverse, the whole vibrant with subtle combination and relationship of colors. Through sheer skill in relating tonal values, details in one instance stand out in relief. In another, they sink into the velvety darkness of the background. In varied degree these characteristics are found in all textiles succeeding those of the Late Nazca Period. There is an equally representative group of Late Chimu weavings in which the early play of color persists in a wholly different treatment of the basic motifs seen in Early Nazca work. With the Spanish Colonial weavings was introduced a new element—that of organization in a self-contained composition. Formal organization was obviously a quality of mind which had not been manifested by the Peruvians and which may come only with a more highly integrated society.



*A Paperweight from Lincoln's Desk*

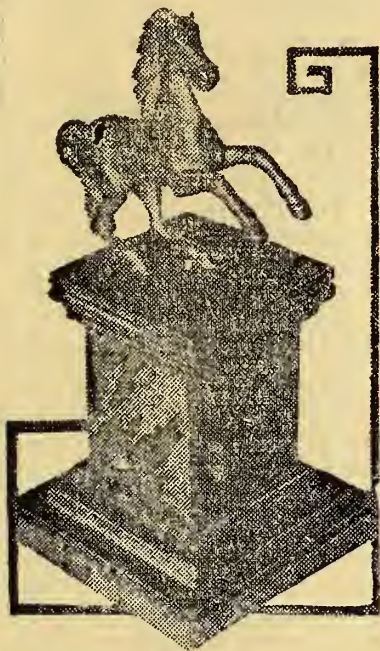
One of the rarest curios in the Lincoln National Life Foundation Museum is a paper weight which was presented to the Museum by Arthur F. Hall, President of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

This weight was a gift of Major Stackpole, steward at the White House at the time of the president's death, to Dr. S. Neumann, Veterinary Surgeon General of the Army of the Potomac. It was purchased from the widow of Dr. Neumann and included affidavits as to the curio's authenticity.



## Rare Memento

One of the rarest curios in the museum of the Lincoln Historical Research Foundation at Fort Wayne, Ind., is this unique paperweight which was in use on the desk of President Lincoln at the time of his assassination. The weight was presented to Dr. S. Neumann, veterinary surgeon general of the Army of the Potomac



by Major Stackpole, steward of the White House at the time of the President's death, and was later sold by the widow of Doctor Neumann. Its most recent owner, President Arthur F. Hall of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company, presented it to the Foundation when its library and museum were established two years

8  
Old York Road, Furlong,  
Bucks County, Pennae

February 19th, 1956.

Lincoln Nat'l Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

LINCOLN NATIONAL  
MAIL DEPARTMENT  
Referred to  
REC'D-FEB 23 1956  
Answered  
LIFE INSURANCE

Gentlemen:

There will be a small collection of Lincolniana in Booth B-2 at the Madison Square Garden from March 5th through March 11th. Any substantial offer will be considered. My maternal Grandfather was Dr. Siegfried Neumann, a close friend of the Lincoln family, and appointed by Mr. Lincoln as purchasing agent for the Cavalry division of the Army.

Mr. Lincoln gave him the Sheath Knife mentioned in the list with the remark "Here, Siegfried, I never carry anything like this. I think it would be more your style - perhaps to protect yourself from the ladies, if my observations are correct!" Mr. Lincoln also gave him the puzzle remarking "This may make your brains work better."

Some of the other items were given to Dr. Neumann by Major Stackpoole, military attache to Mr. Lincoln. Dr. Neumann was in Washington at the time of the assassination, and afterwards. He purchased the miniature chair, made of tree pith, from Lewis Thornton Powell, alias Payne, one of the four conspirators, while he, Payne, was in prison.

The locket, mentioned first in the list, contains a lock of Lincoln's hair, cut from his head after death. Each members of the Secretarial staff received one of these mementoes. This one was given to a Mr. Fry, grandfather of my brother-in-law, in whose family it has been preserved.

The piece of black velvet mentioned was cut from the catafalque after the internment. And the metal horse paperweight was used by Mr. Lincoln on his desk at the White House.

This collection, while not large, is most interesting, and quite authentic, since the family have papers concerning the matter. There will also be shown clothes worn by Mrs. Neuman at the White House - one dress, particularly, made of what was known as the old "pineapple" material. A partial list of the items follows -

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 - Locket of Lincoln's hair             | 9 - Sheath knife                       |
| 2 - Paperweight-Metal Horse on pedestal  | 10 - Candlestick                       |
| 3 - Paperweight-Staffordshire dog        | 11 - Egg Cup                           |
| 4 - Chess-board-Civil War Generals, etc. | 12 - Compass                           |
| 5 - Invitation to Inaugural Ball         | 13 - Pin-cushion, Mrs Lincoln's        |
| 6 - pair China Dogs                      | 14 - Calling Card-signed by A. Lincoln |
| 7 - Old wood carving                     | 15 - miniature wooden Chair            |
| 8 - Metal Puzzle                         | 16 - pe Black Velvet, from catafalque  |

And other items of considerable interest, including papers.

If you would care to view this collection at Madison Square Garden before the Show opens, and will write me, I will make the necessary arrangements. Thanking you for a reply at your earliest convenience, if you are interested, I am

Faithfully

*Mildred Bolles Sinexon*

MILDRED BOLLES SINEXON  
(Mrs H. Bunn Sinexon)

MBS/b



*Sinexons Exhibit Rare Art*



PRE-COLUMBIAN ART will be exhibited at the Madison Square Garden, New York City, Antiques Show on March 5 thru March 11, 1956, Daily 1-11 P. M., Sunday 1-7 P. M., by Mr. & Mrs. H. Bunn Sinexon, of Furlong, Bucks Co., Pa.

Among the exhibitors will be the H. Bunn Sinexons, of Furlong, who will show many rare and interesting drug store items such as bronze mortar and pestle, porcelain jars, etc. Also a very interesting Lincoln collection.

Of particular interest will be a fabulous collection of archaic pre-Columbian art recently acquired by the Sinexons. Among them are interesting clay figurines.

The collection consists of Tarascan, Totonac, Olmec Mayan and Aztec cultures, some in pairs known

as "matrimonials". Some depict deformities and disease, others "smiling faces", and are believed indicative of civilized cultures existent upon the American continents as long ago as 80 centuries before Christ.

Such specimens are now being used by modern decorators together with the ultra-modern. A painting by the Spanish artist, Jose Maris d'Servin, which will be on exhibit, shows this trend. The Sinexons are arranging a personal appearance of d'Servin with some of his art in New Hope in the near future.

February 29, 1956

Mrs. H. Dunn Sinexon  
Old York Road  
Furlong  
Bucks County, Pennsylvania

My dear Mrs. Sinexon:

We are very much interested in the display of Lincoln material which you mention in your letter of February 19 which will be shown at the Madison Square Garden between March 5 through March 11.

We are especially interested in number 2 - the paperweight with the metal horse on the pedestal, which you mention was used by Mr. Lincoln on his desk at the White House. Could you give us a little better description of it - the size of it for instance and also how much you wish to have for it.

Very truly yours,

LAW:WC

Director



See safe for original offprints.

Lincoln's Paperweight

By

R. Gerald McMeety, Librarian

Lincoln National Life Foundation

One of the rarest and most interesting  
curios displayed in the museum of the Lincoln  
National Life Foundation <sup>at Fort Wayne, Indiana</sup> is the paperweight of  
President Abraham Lincoln. This item  
is of unusual <sup>historical</sup> interest because of its constant  
and serviceable use on the great executive desk.  
It was presented to the Foundation by Mr  
Arthur F. Hall, President of the Lincoln  
National Life Insurance Company of Fort  
Wayne, Indiana.

While several affirmations are on file  
concerning the authenticity of the paperweight  
one of the most interesting is as follows:

To whom It may Concern

This is to Certify that I, William Howard  
Lisdale, Court officer in part 17, of the Supreme  
Court, New York City, was for two years,  
while the Civil War was in progress, orderley

to President Lincoln of the United States,  
at Washington, D.C., and had access  
to his office daily, in which office as  
on his desk I have seen many times the  
metal paper weight of a horse mounted  
on pedestal which the present owner  
—— —, has shown me.

William H. Tisdale

(notarized)

After the assassination of President Lincoln  
this weight was presented to Dr. S.  
Neumann, Veterinary Surgeon General, of  
the Army of the Potomac, by Major  
Stackpole, steward at the White House  
at the time of the President's death. It  
was sold by the widow of Dr. Neumann  
and ~~has exchanged ownership~~ has changed

Ownership several times before its  
<sup>Lincoln National Life</sup>  
presentation to the Foundation ~~was~~  
~~shown~~ at Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Methodist

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cu

Epworth Herald

W. E. G. Glaty, Editor

Methodist Book Concern, Inc.

740 Rush St.

Chicago, Ill.

(photo of paperweight)





China 1/2 horse  
J.H.

